

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [02] with the following amended paragraph:

This application is related to ~~and claims the benefit of~~ the co-pending applications No. ~~09/_____,~~ 09/921,282 entitled "MANAGEMENT OF VIRTUAL AND PHYSICAL NETWORK INVENTORIES" (Atty. Docket No. 020366-077210US); No. ~~09/_____,~~ 09/921,285 entitled "PROVISIONING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTO-DISCOVERING CUSTOMER PREMISES EQUIPMENT IN ACTIVATING xDSL" (Atty. Docket No. 020366-077310US); No. ~~09/_____,~~ 09/921,294 entitled "PERFORMANCE MODELING IN A VDSL NETWORK" (Atty. Docket No. 020366-077410US); No. ~~09/_____,~~ 09/921,276 entitled "FAULT MANAGEMENT IN A VDSL NETWORK" (Atty. Docket No. 020366-077510US); No. ~~09/_____,~~ 09/921,277 entitled "FAULT MANAGEMENT IN A VDSL NETWORK" (Atty. Docket No. 020366-077520US); No. ~~09/_____,~~ 09/921,283 entitled "PROACTIVE REPAIR PROCESS IN THE xDSL NETWORK (WITH A VDSL FOCUS)" (Atty. Docket No. 020366-077610US); and No. ~~09/_____,~~ 09/921,274 entitled, "LINKING ORDER ENTRY PROCESS TO REALTIME NETWORK INVENTORIES AND CAPACITIES" (Atty. Docket No. 020366-077810US), all filed August 1, 2001, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace paragraph [26] with the following amended paragraph:

Network element inventory 106 may be any database capable of storing data relating to network 102. In one embodiment, the network element inventory 106 may receive data from shared network 108 and plurality of customer networks 110 directly thereby removing the need for EMS 104. Network element inventory 106 includes network discovered physical inventory, network discovered logical inventory, and planned network inventory in one embodiment. In one embodiment, network element inventory 106 is as described in co-pending U.S. Application No.

09/_____, 09/921,282 entitled "MANAGEMENT OF VIRTUAL AND PHYSICAL NETWORK INVENTORIES" (Atty. Docket No. 020366-077210US).

Please replace paragraph 32 with the following amended paragraph:

Central Office (CO) 206 includes an ATM router NE 228 and CO Digital Subscriber Loop Access Module (DSLAM) 230. In one embodiment, CO DSLAM 230 may be a broadband digital terminal (BDT). ATM router NE 224 and CO DSLAM BDT 230 are coupled to IOF 230 and midloop 208 through optic fiber, such as OC-3c and OC-12c. Additionally, CO 206 includes a public switch ~~230~~232 and Main Distribution Frame (MDF) 234. Public switch ~~230~~232 and MDF 234 is where an outside customer network is coupled to the shared network. In one embodiment, public switch 232 and MDF 234 provide telephony service to a customer. Additionally, MDF 234 is coupled to midloop section 208.